

RENTAL HOUSING MEDIATION TASK FORCE
MINUTES

December 3, 2009
630 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, California, 93101
7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:

JOSHUA ALLEN	<u>E</u>	TRUDY PAUL	<u>X</u>
LEESA BECK	<u>X</u>	MARSHALL SHERRILL	<u>X</u>
BENJAMIN BUSH	<u>X</u>	BARBARA SMITH SHERRILL	<u>X</u>
SILVIO DILORETO	<u>X</u>	ROGER SIMPSON	<u>X</u>
JUSTIN DULLUM	<u>X</u>	SKIP SZYMANSKI	<u>X</u>
LYNN GOEBEL	<u>X</u>	SCOTT WEXLER	<u>X</u>
DANIEL HERLINGER	<u>X</u>	BRUCE WOLLENBERG	<u>X</u>

X = Present

A = Absent

E = Excused

Officers: Barbara Smith Sherrill Chair, Leesa Beck Vice Chair, Justin Dillum Secretary
Staff Present: Andrea Bifano, Sr. Rental Housing Mediation Specialist, Maggie Walker and Netza Ortiz, Rental Housing Mediation Aides

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Rental Housing Mediation Task Force (RHMTF) was conducted in compliance with the standards set by the Americans with Disability Act. No members from the public were present to address the RHMTF on a particular issue.

The following were guests of the Mediators: Hanna, Elias Raphael and David Wesley Beck, Ilene Bifano Baroni, Alisha Wexler, Rick Paul and Mary McDonald.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Marshall Sherrill made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 5, 2009 meeting. Roger Simpson seconded the motion and it passed.

4. CITY ADVISORY GROUP RECRUITMENT:

Mediator Terms to Expire and Appointments to the Task Force: Ben Bush, Chair stated that the terms of Dan Herlinger, Lynn Goebel and Marshal Sherrill were scheduled to expire on 12/31/09. He also shared that Dan and Lynn had reapplied to the RHMTF, and that Marshall would stay on the board at least until the next recruitment. The City Council Appointments are scheduled to take place on December 15, 2009.

5. RHMTF BY-LAWS:

Up-date tabled until the completion of the committee's review of the By-Laws.

6. ELECTION OF RHMTF OFFICERS:

Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary to be Elected December 3, 2009: The elections of the RHMTF Officers were held. The past years officers were: Ben Bush Chair, Barbara Smith Sherrill Vice Chair, and Lessa Beck Secretary. The group conducted open nominations for officer positions. Discussion took place. Roger Simpson made a motion to elect Barbara Smith Sherrill as Chair and Leesa Beck for Vice Chair. Ben

RENTAL HOUSING MEDIATION TASK FORCE MINUTES

December 3, 2009

PAGE 2

Bush seconded the motion and it passed. Ben Bush then made a motion to elect Justin Dullum as Secretary. Roger Simpson seconded the motion and it passed. Ben Bush announced the new RHMTF Officers as: Barbara Smith Sherrill Chair, Lessa Beck Vice Chair and Justin Dullum Secretary.

7. CASELOAD REPORT AND MEDIATION TRAINING:

A. The Statistical Reports for the months of October and November 2009 were distributed.

B. Mediations/Skills: Two mediations and the skills utilized to reach a successful resolution were discussed.

The first mediation was held on October 5, 2009 (it was not discussed at the November 5, 2009 meeting due to time constraints). The Mediators were Marshall Sherrill, Dan Herlinger, Trudy Paul, (Trainee) and staff. Both parties had their attorneys were present at the mediation. The issue was a 30-Day Notice of Termination of Tenancy. The skills utilized to reach a resolution to the dispute included: Use of hypothetical questions, reframing issues and transmitting proposals between the parties. The mediation was successful; no written agreement necessary.

The second mediation was held on December 1, 2009. The Mediators were Lessa Beck, Roger Simpson, Lynn Goebel (trainee) and staff. The issue was a 30-Day Notice of Termination of Tenancy. The skills utilized to reach a resolution to the dispute included: summary, caucus and reality testing. The mediation was successful and a Binding Settlement Agreement was written.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ben Bush, Chair announced that Sue Gray, Community Development Programs Supervisor was recently promoted. As of January 4, 2010, Sue will serve in the position of Administrative Services Manager in the Community Development Department. The group congratulated Sue and wished her well.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

The RHMTF meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm